GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1974
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2008
FUEL ADULTERATION
Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Environmental Pollution Control Authority has directed Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) to carry out an investigation on fuel adulteration;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the CSE;

(c) whether the oil companies/Government have failed to check the rising fuel adulteration cases; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) & b): Yes, Sir. Consequent to the Supreme Court order dated 22.11.2001 in Writ Petition 13029/85, the Environmental Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority for the National Capital Region has directed Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) to carry out an investigation on fuel adulteration. The details of the recommendations made by CSE in section 9 of the Report is Annexed.

(c) & (d): Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for termination of dealership in the first instance itself for serious malpractices like adulteration, tampering of seals, and unauthorized fittings/gears in dispensing units. In spite of above, the possibility of adulteration of petrol/diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and various adulterants available in the market and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel.

In order to check adulteration, the Government has taken a number of additional initiatives viz., Automation of Retail Outlets, Third party certification of Retail Outlets, Monitoring of movement of tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS), Jan Kerosene Pariyojna (JKP), Use of Marker in Kerosene, Revision of MDG etc.